

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 and 21 are pending in the present application. Claim 1 has been amended and claim 21 has been added for the Examiner's consideration. Claim 20 was canceled by a previous amendment. Claims 1 and 21 are independent. Claims 7-19 stand withdrawn from further consideration by the Examiner as being directed to a non-elected invention.

Interview with Examiner

Several telephone interviews were conducted with the Examiner in charge of the above-identified application between April 6, 2006 and April 24, 2006. Applicant's representative appreciates the courtesy shown by the Examiner during the interviews.

In the Interviews with the Examiner, the Examiner indicated that claim 1 would be allowable if amended to include the subject matter of dependent claim 7 and to include the "transfer section." Applicants appreciate this indication of allowable subject matter by the Examiner.

As the Examiner will note, new claim 21 has been added to the present application. Additional claim 21 is directed to the subject matter of dependent claim 7 rewritten in independent form. In addition, additional claim 21 includes the "transfer section" recited therein. In view of this, additional claim 21 should be in condition for allowance.

With regard to independent claim 1, this claim has been amended to include the recitation "a transport apparatus which transports the sheet sheaves while opening up a predetermined distance therebetween in guide channels." This recitation is supported at least in Figures 3 and 4

of the present specification. Applicants respectfully submit that the Muylle reference relied on by the Examiner fails to disclose this aspect of the present invention.

Favorable consideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

All the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed and/or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently pending rejections and that they be withdrawn.

It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action, and that as such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to send the application to Issue.

In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Paul C. Lewis, Registration No. 43,368 at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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